REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 42, 48, 51-52, 67-68 and 70-86 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, and claims 41, 49-50, 54, 56-57, and 61-63 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Applicants note that the Examiner has substantially reviewed and examined all the pending claims (although now slightly amended) previously in preparation for the last Office Action dated September 5, 2001. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank Primary Examiner Geckil once again for the courtesies extended its representatives during various telephone interviews. As noted in today's telephone interview, Applicants withdraw the interference request in this application at this time.

The claims have been amended to remove the term "**prepended**" ("**prepending**") and to clarify that the embedded object URLs are modified (or tagged) to designate a repeater server instead of the origin server. Support for these amendments is found, e.g., in the application as filed at page 5, lines 7-14, quoted here with emphasis added:

> If the particular requested resource itself can contain identifiers of other resources, then the resource may be rewritten (before being provided to the client). In particular, the resource is rewritten to replace at least some of the resource identifiers contained therein with modified resource identifiers designating a repeater instead of the origin server. As a consequence of this rewriting process, when the client requests other resources based on identifiers in the particular requested resource, the client will make those requests directly to the selected repeater, bypassing the reflector and origin server entirely.

The claims have also been amended to rectify some clerical errors.

Attached hereto as an attached Appendix captioned "Version with markings to show changes made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

Application of Farber et al, 09/612,598

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance and expedited issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

41. (Amended) A distributed hosting framework operative in a computer network in which users of client machines connect to [a first] an origin server, the framework comprising:

a set of repeater servers, distinct from the origin server, for hosting at least some of the embedded objects of web pages that are normally hosted by the origin server;

a routine for modifying at least one embedded object URL of a web page to [include a hostname prepended to a domain name and path] designate a repeater server in the set of repeater servers instead of the origin server;

[a set of repeater servers, distinct from the first server, for hosting at least some of the embedded objects of web pages that are normally hosted by the first server;] and

a repeater server selector mechanism constructed and adapted to identify, for a particular client machine, an appropriate repeater server from the set of repeater servers;

wherein in response to requests for the web page, generated by the client machines, the web page including the modified embedded object URL is served from the [first] origin server and the embedded object identified by the modified embedded object URL is served from a given one of the repeater servers as identified by the repeater selector mechanism.

49. (Amended) A method of serving a page and an associated page object, wherein the page is stored on [a first] an origin server and copies of the page object are stored on a set of repeater servers distinct from the [first] origin server, the method comprising:

(a) modifying a URL for the page object to [include a hostname prepended to a content provider-supplied domain name and path] designate a repeater server instead of the origin server;

(b) serving the page from the [first] origin server with the modified URL;

(c) responsive to a browser query to resolve to the [hostname] designated repeater server, identifying a given one of the set of repeater servers from which the object may be retrieved; and

(d) returning to the browser an address of the identified repeater server to enable the browser to attempt to retrieve the object from that server.

50. (Amended) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the copies of the page object are stored on a subset of the set of repeater servers.

54. (Amended) The content delivery method as described in claim 53 [51] wherein the serving step comprises:

for each embedded object, identifying one or more servers from which the embedded object may be retrieved.

56. (Amended) The method as described in claim 55 wherein an identified server is selected from a set of repeater servers based on data identifying a requesting user's location and on data identifying current costs between a group containing the requesting user and the set of repeater servers.

57. (Amended) A method for Internet content delivery, comprising:

at an origin [a first] server, modifying at least one embedded object URL of a page to [include a hostname prepended to a domain name and a path] designate a repeater server network instead of a server normally used to retrieve the embedded object;

responsive to a request for the page issued from a client machine, serving the page with the modified embedded object URL to the client machine from the [first] origin server;

responsive to a request for the embedded object, resolving the modified URL to an [hostname to an IP] address of a server other than the [first] origin server, that is not overloaded [likely to host the embedded object]; and

attempting to serve the embedded object to the client from the server.

61. (Amended) A content delivery method, comprising:

distributing a set of page objects across a network of repeater servers managed by a domain other than an origin server domain;

for a given page normally served from the origin server domain, tagging at least some of the embedded objects of the page to designate a repeater server domain so that requests for the objects resolve to the repeater server domain instead of the origin server domain; and

in response to a client request for an embedded object of the page:

returning to the client an address of a given one of the repeater servers within the repeater domain [that is likely to host the embedded object and] that is not overloaded.

62. (Amended) A content delivery method, comprising:

tagging an embedded object in a page to resolve to a second domain other than an origin server domain by [prepending data to] rewriting a URL supplied by the origin server to generate a different resource locator which designates the second domain instead of the origin server, wherein the second domain includes a set of repeater server distinct from the origin server;

serving the page with the different resource locator from the origin server;

resolving the different resource locator to identify a repeater server in the second domain; and

serving the embedded object from the identified repeater server.

63. (Amended) The method as described in claim 62 wherein the identified repeater server is selected from a set of repeater servers based on a function of a requesting user's location and on data identifying current costs between a group containing the requesting user and the repeater servers.